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## **THE RUSSIAN VERSION OF J. D. SALINGER'S NOVEL «THE CATCHER IN THE RYE»: MONORHEMATIC CHANGES**

**Abstract:** This article discusses the syntactic transformations in the Russian translation of the novel «The Catcher in the Rye» by J. D. Salinger. Within the first chapter of the novel, there are distinguished and analyzed eight monorhemes, or rhematic beginnings of a passage with a zero or a rhematized theme. The corresponding sentences are found out in the Russian version of the novel as well, which makes it possible to describe the syntactic permutations in the English monorhemes when translated into Russian.

**Keywords:** translation transformations, syntactic transformations, theme, rheme.

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## **РУССКОЯЗЫЧНЫЙ ПЕРЕВОД РОМАНА ДЖ. Д. СЭЛИНДЖЕРА «НАД ПРОПАСТЬЮ ВО РЖИ»: МОНОРЕМАТИЧЕСКИЕ ИЗМЕНЕНИЯ**

**Аннотация:** В статье рассматриваются синтаксические трансформации в русскоязычном переводе романа Дж. Д. Сэлинджера «Над пропастью во ржи». В первой главе романа было обнаружено и проанализировано 8 монорем. Соответствующие

предложения были обнаружены и в переводе романа, что позволило описать синтаксические перестановки в английских моnoreмах при переводе на русский язык.

**Ключевые слова:** переводческие трансформации, синтаксические трансформации, тема, рема.

It is essential that the concept of «transformation» was associated with the development of «transformational grammar». The latter considers the rules of building syntactic structures, which have the same plans of content, but different plans of expression. According to the transformation rules, surface structures are derived from deep structures [3; 6].

There are several definitions of the term «translation transformations» [7]. For example, L.S. Barkhudarov states that translation transformations are «those numerous and qualitatively diverse transformations that are carried out to achieve translation equivalence («adequacy») despite differences in the systems of two languages» [1]. A.D. Shveitser, for his part, believes that the linguistic concept of «transformation» has a metaphorical meaning, because it refers to the relations between the initial and the final language expressions [9]. V.N. Komissarov writes that «translation transformations» are transformations, which help to «carry out a transfer from initial units to translational units. They change both the form and the meaning of the source units» [5].

There are different approaches to the translation transformations classifications. For example, V.N. Komissarov divides all transformations into lexical, grammatical (for example, zero transformation, word forms replacement, parts of speech replacement, sentence members replacement, types of sentence replacement, sentence fragmentation/integration) and lexical-grammatical [5]; L.S. Barkhudarov divides transformations into substitutions, additions, omissions and transpositions (changing the order of word and words combinations within a sentence, changing the parts order within a complex sentence, changing the independent sentences order within the text) [1].

During the process of translation, syntactic units like word combinations and sentences are comprehensively analysed in order to transfer their meaning as accurately as possible. The analysis of these units

in terms of their communicative significance, i.e. the analysis of their actual division, plays an important role. The actual division of a sentence involves the identification of the core of an utterance, i.e. the most important part of it, which transfers the communicative intention of the speaker, and the basis of the utterance [2; 4]. The basis of the utterance is called a «theme», and the core of the utterance is a «rheme». The rheme is the main forming element of the utterance, its purpose.

The theme is an optional element, and due to this fact it is possible to distinguish utterances, in which there is only rheme or there is new information in theme, i.e. «monorhemes». Utterances with theme corresponding already known information and with rheme are called «dirhemes» [4]. Usually there are monorhemes at the beginning of the text or the paragraph. Monorheme and dirheme structures are different in different languages. So, in English a rheme is at the beginning of a sentence; in Russian, on the contrary, there is a theme in the beginning of a sentence.

Transposition is one of the most commonly used syntactic transformations:

– *I mean that's all (R) I told D. B. about (T)... [10] – Я и ему – Д.Б. (T) – только про это и рассказывал (R)... [8]*

In this sentence, the translator uses syntactic transformation: new information (the scope of the told story) is transposed to the end of the sentence, and the particle «ТОЛЬКО» appears to be the marker of the rheme in Russian. This is due to the fact that in the Russian language a rheme is at the end of a sentence, and a theme is at the beginning of a sentence.

– *You've probably seen (R) the ads (T), anyway [10]. – Рекламу (T) вы, во всяком случае, видели (R) [8].*

The theme (*the ads*), expressed by the noun with the definite article (which is the mark of the theme), during translation into Russian is transposed to the beginning of the sentence. The transformation is realized in straight accordance with the general tendencies of the actual division of the Russian language. And the main information (that they have probably seen the ads) is moved to the end of the sentence.

– *Only, we didn't have (R) the meet (T) [10]. – Только состязание (T) не состоялось (R) [8].*

In this example, the translator again uses the transposition, since in the English language the rheme (information that they did not have the meet) is usually at the beginning of the sentence. But in Russian, it is

usually the theme (some already known information) which is placed at the beginning of the sentence.

– *There were never many girls (R) at all at the football games (T)* [10]. – *На футбольных матчах (T) всегда мало девочек (R)* [8].

In English, the phrase «there is/there are» is used to indicate the rheme, and according to the rules of the actual division of the English language, the rheme is at the beginning of the sentence. During translating, a transposition is used to render the information as accurately as possible.

– *I never even once saw a horse (R) anywhere near the place (T)* [10]. – *А я там (T) даже лошади ни разу в глаза не видал (R)* [8].

In this example, the indefinite article indicates the rheme in the English text, but in the Russian translation it is indicated with the particle «даже». The translation corresponds to the general tendencies of the actual division.

– *The game with Saxon Hall (T) was supposed to be a very big deal (R) around Pencey* [10]. – *Считалось, что для Пэнси этот матч (T) важней всего на свете (R)* [8].

In order to correspond to the general tendencies of the actual division in the two languages, a transposition was used. It is important to note that in the English text the theme is indicated by the definite article, and the indefinite article indicates the rheme. In the Russian language, the pronoun «этот» indicates the theme.

– *He's going to drive me (R) home (T)...* [10] – *И домой (T) он меня сам отвезет (R)...* [8]

In the Russian translation the theme is at the beginning of the sentence, and the translator uses the lexical mark of the rheme «сам».

– *You probably heard (R) of it (T)* [10]. – *Наверно, вы про нее (T) слышали (R)* [8].

As we can see in this example, in the Russian translation the theme and the rheme change their place in such a way that the most important information comes from the beginning closer to the end of the sentence (according to the general tendency).

Thus, we can conclude that according to the trends of the actual division in the English language, the core of the utterance, i.e. the rheme, is at the beginning of a sentence, and there is the theme after it. In the Russian language, on the contrary, the theme is much more often placed at the beginning of a sentence. Transposition is one of the most commonly used syntactic transformations – changes which help to carry out a transfer from initial units to translational units.

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